

I am, therefore, regrettably unable to support the Central American Free Trade Agreement for its failure to guarantee basic workplace protections for Central Americans and a level playing field for American workers.

It is interesting, Mr. Speaker, that given the problems that we have with CAFTA, given the questions that have been raised, that the majority is unwilling to give sufficient debate to develop the arguments. This is a critically important issue. NAFTA was an important issue. It was 8 hours of debate. This is one-quarter of that.

We are unable to fully develop the deficiencies in this bill with the 1 hour of debate that the minority will be given. Perhaps that is the point. Perhaps that is the objective. Perhaps the meaning of this rule is to shut us up, shut us out, and shut us down. That is a shame, that my colleagues do not have the confidence in their proposition that they put on this floor to give it a full airing, a full debate in the light of day.

Why do these issues always come up in the late of night? I do not understand that. Oppose this rule. Oppose this bill. It is not good for America. It is not good for the countries that have signed it.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, fast track up-or-down voting procedures place a premium on consultation and accommodation during the conception and negotiation of trade agreements. But the DR-CAFTA negotiations turned its back on this process. Everyone who raised concerns about labor rights, environmental standards, or the vulnerability of key agricultural and manufacturing sectors was shut out. That is why this agreement has been so universally criticized throughout Central America and the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I am very familiar with Central America. I have deep attachments to the people, and I appreciate how far these countries have come since the wars there ended. I want their democracies to thrive. I want their lives and livelihoods to improve. And I think a good trade agreement could make a valuable contribution to these efforts. But this CAFTA is not that agreement, and this rule deprives Members of their democratic rights to speak on the floor of the House on this controversial issue.

It is shameful how the Republican leadership of this House continues to use the Committee on Rules as a weapon to undermine the deliberative process. It is disrespectful to American workers that the Republican leadership is shortchanging this debate. It is a disgrace. But, sadly, that has become the norm around here. I urge all my colleagues to vote down this rule and vote down this CAFTA bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Morris,

Illinois (Mr. WELLER), a hard-working member of the Committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time, and I rise in support of the rule as well as in support of the Dominican Republic-Central American Free Trade Agreement.

Let me ask a very simple question. Next door to you is a neighbor, and you are charged by your neighbor to enter his back yard. But then when he comes over to visit your back yard, he can come in free. That is really what this trade agreement is all about.

Right now, 80 percent of all manufactured goods made in the Dominican Republic-Central America come in duty free into Illinois, into my State in the United States, and 99 percent of all farm products from the DR and Central America come into Illinois and the United States duty free.

Now, is there reciprocity under the current status quo? No. Illinois corn faces a 20 percent tariff, Illinois soybeans a 30 percent tariff, Illinois pork a 40 percent tariff. Under DR-CAFTA, those tariffs are either eliminated immediately or phased out very quickly.

We make yellow bulldozers. Caterpillar is the biggest manufacturer in the State of Illinois and the biggest employer in my district. Those yellow bulldozers made in Joliet face a 14 to 20 percent tariff under the status quo. Under DR-CAFTA it is eliminated immediately.

Vote "yes" for DR-CAFTA. It is good for Illinois workers and good for Illinois farmers.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, back on November 6 of 1979, Ronald Reagan announced his candidacy for President of the United States; and in that announcement, he envisaged a free trade accord of all the Americas, where we could have the free flow of goods and services and capital and ideas.

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This is a very important part of that vision which has not only been supported by Republicans, but President Clinton was a strong supporter of that notion, the free trade area of the Americas; back in 1993, by a 392-18 vote, passed the Caribbean Basin Initiative. Why, so rather than sending aid, we would open up the U.S. market to these struggling countries in the Caribbean.

We now have an opportunity to respond to the fact that we have provided unlimited access to our consumer market by these countries.

Mr. Speaker, it is true, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SHAW) and I have been here for a quarter century, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) a little less than that. I have never witnessed greater politicization or a greater mischaracterization of a piece of legislation than I have this. For the last decade we have had 2 hours of debate on trade agreements

that we have dealt with. Yes, the statute says up to 20 hours. The last time that happened was November 14, 1980. And once they started it, they pared it back.

We have been debating this issue for literally months. Special Orders and 1-minute speeches have taken place. It is time for us to vote. I believe we are going to have a great opportunity, a great opportunity, to enhance the standard of living for people in the United States and in this region. It is going to create an opportunity for us to better compete globally, and as we enhance the standard of living in Latin America, it will clearly help us with this very important problem that we have of border security and illegal immigration.

We have a win-win all of the way around. We have seen great benefits from trade. The much-maligned North American Free Trade Agreement has created a scenario whereby we have a third of a trillion dollars in trade between Mexico and the United States. Mexico's population now has a middle class that is larger than the entire Canadian population. Yes, there is poverty; yes, it needs to improve, but clearly the cause of freedom is an important one. The cause of stability in our region is a very, very important one.

I urge support of this rule. I urge support of the Dominican Republic-Central American Free Trade Agreement.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BASS). The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

#### REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 3304

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 3304.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

#### SURFACE TRANSPORTATION EXTENSION ACT OF 2005, PART V

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, the Committee on Ways and Means, the Committee on Science, and the Committee on Resources be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 3453) to provide an extension of highway, highway safety, motor